

CHAPTER - 25

A SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN: CASE STUDY OF HYDERABAD CITY

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to study the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Hyderabad city women. The outbreak of Novel corona virus severely affected all walks of life throughout the globe especially women, who are the primary providers of the family. For our study we have taken help of digital questionnaire which consists of 23 questions (3 sections) cover socio-economic issue, health and future prospects of women post pandemic. There were about 1144 respondents (429 male, 715 female). The outcome of the research Shows that 65% of women lost their jobs who were belong to private sector and (78.6) were not having livelihood supporters.

Keywords: socio-economic, pandemic, Novel corona virus, women, Hyderabad.

INTRODUCTION

Women contribution to the socio economic development is very significant in domestic as well as economic. The status of the women in the society was significant throughout all the civilizations past and present so, Women not only have impact on their families but also to the society. Most of the women in India are dependent on good will of their male counter parts (father, brother, husband) as most of the women are not financially independent after their late 30's. So, women have been at the receiving end at every time. The Saga of Indian womanhood is trapped in cruel, in human and pathetic attacks on her physical, emotional, social, and even spiritual growth, her survival for growth continues from womb to tomb But from the ancient

times women were honored high status saying as “*Ardhangini*”- one half of husband body¹. In this difficult phase of COVID -19 Pandemic women are the major losers in their major aspects, especially during lockdown phases (1-5). In India complete lockdown was imposed on 22nd March 2020 due to which most of the women had extra responsibilities on their shoulders like cooking, taking care of kids and families, other professional work (teaching online, banking, software employees, webinars, and online seminars, online exams etc....). In our study area too, the problems were similar like, women had to suffer a lot because of the lockdown as women had to stand in long queue for drinking water in the dawn time, at the same time women are facing verbal assaults by male counter parts. A part from the above mentioned problem, there were many other problems by which women had been tortured by their husband’s (mainly) because of alcohol banning², losing of earning, poverty etc. The phase of lockdown were so devastating that most of the women who were earning their livelihood from small jobs (services), were forced to earn their livelihood through informal sectors (selling vegetables, flowers, fruits, handloom, handicrafts) for their families and their survival.

Due to educational pressure by the institutions mother’s responsibilities has been overburdened at the same time gender bias has also been increased as guardian’s preference is more likely in favor boys rather than girls³. Hyderabad city has been the hotspot of domestic violence due to lack of enough space for reasonable price and as well as torture from tenant owners for rents during this lockdown period because of losing their earning and jobs. Unfortunately, because of the lockdown their self-respect and dignity has been decreased in their families and society as employment is considered as one of the main predictor for women empowerment.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The aim of this research is to discuss the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Hyderabad women.

STUDY AREA

¹Kamraju, M, and Mohd Akhter Ali. “SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN IN SHAMSHABAD AREA.” *Jai Maa Saraswati Gyanadyani*, ISSN No: 2454- 8367 e-ISJN-A4372-3118 2, no. 4 (2017): 135–52.

²<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/national/1080150-socio-economic-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-> retrieved-2020.

³<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/coronavirus-gender-inequality-india-6414659/>-retrieved-2020.

Hyderabad is a creation of the first twin city of Golconda-Hyderabad, and then come, Hyderabad Secunderabad concept, followed by the huge cantonments of the Nizam and the British. The general land- use of the old Hyderabad is confined largely in South, East and a vast North East with Osmania University, Railways, NGRI, NFC, E.C.I.L., and several small and medium sized industries and institutions. The latitude and longitude for the study of area of Hyderabad city and environs extends from (17° 15' 30'', 78° 15' 00'') to (17° 40' 15'', 78° 40' 15'').The Hyderabad Urban Development Area(HUDA) is around 1865 sq.km. The HUDA area is divided into 29 planning zones (11 Zones inside municipal limits and 18zones in the non-municipal limits or peripheral areas)⁴.

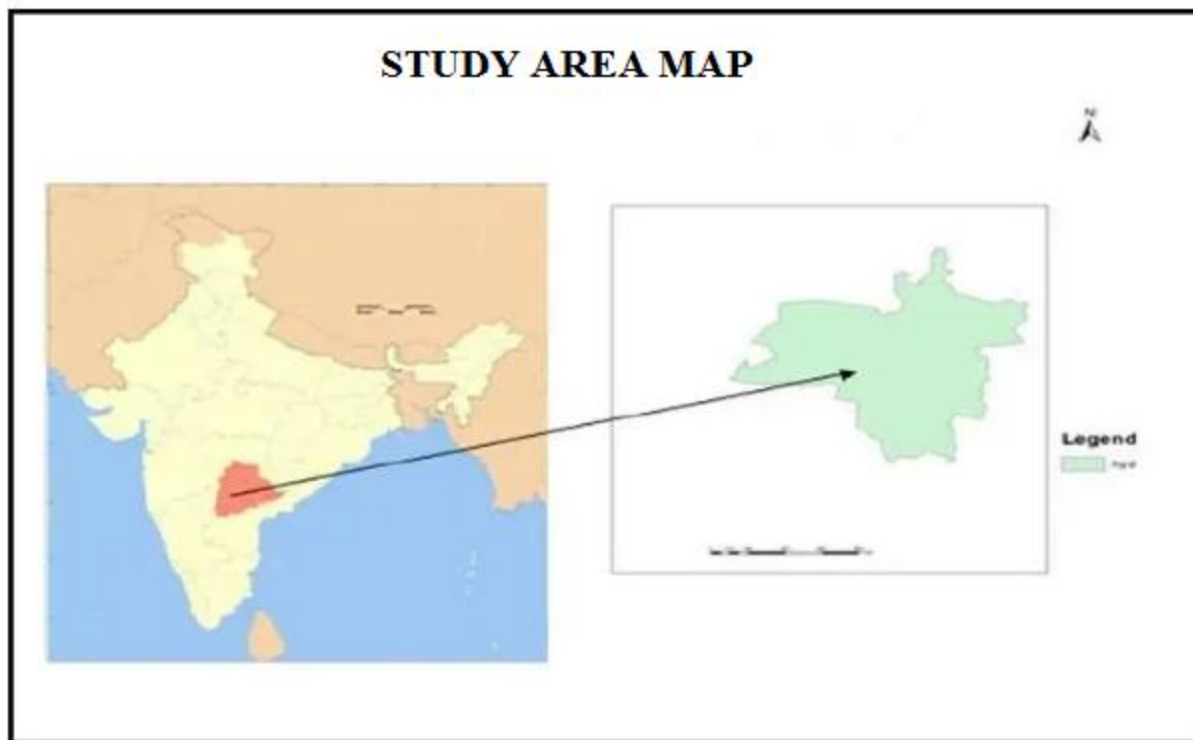


Figure1, Source: Mohd. Akhter Ali 2019.

METHODOLOGY

In compilation of this research we have mostly used Primary (Digital Questionnaire) method and secondary data like, books, journals, authentic internet sources, websites, unpublished or grey

⁴Kamraju, M, and Mohd Akhter Ali. "Environmental Impacts of Urban Growth from an Integrated Dynamic Perspective: A Study of Hyderabad, Telangana State, India." International Journal for Research in Engineering Application & Management (IJREAM), ISSN No: 2454-9150 05, no. 02 (2019): 265–73. doi:10.35291/2454-9150.2019.0045.

literatures works and views of related experts. For analyzing this research we were used from Ms. Excel, ARC GIS and SPSS package.

BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

The status of women can be generally described as the degree of socio-economic parity and rights enjoyed by women. Women's inclusion on an equal basis with men in household decision-making, the free speech of their opinions and involvement in civic life render them respected in society.

Census of India (1981)⁵ recorded that women have played a significant role in agriculture, as agriculture is primarily a household enterprise. Recent studies have shown that women in India are big food producers in terms of income, amount and number of hours working.

Noponen (1991)⁶ investigated the ratio of women to household profits. The researcher observed that, on average, total female earnings accounted for 42 % of total household revenue, while the equivalent figure for males was 48%.

According to Pillai (1989)⁷, more than 90 % of women operate in unorganized industries where child care and maternity services are not offered. Throughout the years, the amount of poor young people is rising. For certain instances, work has not reached its economic position.

According to National Committee on the Status of women (1974)⁸ Women's engagement has decreased since 1921. The estimated number of woman employees fell from 41.8 million in 1911 to 31.2 million in 1971. The proportion of female employees in the overall human workforce fell from 33.73 per cent in 1911 to 11.86 per cent in 1971. According to the 1981 Census, a total of 23,89 per cent of the agricultural population is residential. According to the 1981 Census, of a

⁵ Census of India report 1987

⁶ Noponen, Helzi. "The dynamics of work and survival for the urban poor: a gender analysis of panel data from Madras." *Development and change* 22, no. 2 (1991): 233-260.

⁷ Pillai, J.K.: Women's march towards equality, Yojna, Aug. 15,1989, Vol. 33, No. 14 & 15,p. 10

⁸ Report of the Committee on the Status of Women In India: Towards Equality, 1974, Govt, of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, New Delhi.

total of 23,89 per cent of rural female workers, 16,49 per cent were listed as 'primary employees' and remainder as 'marginal workers.'

Malik (1975)⁹ stated that women needed to be active in the reform process. Unless that is not achieved, the prospects of an all-round growth in rural India are very grim. Women cannot be freed until there is also a concomitant abolition of landless peasantry. Women and men will only be able to contribute to output if they can be allowed to have a share in their development own land.

Hanumappa and Sujatha (1983)¹⁰ explored the role of Mahila Mandals in the growth of rural women and found that, with the advent of mahila mandals in the community, there was a shift in women's interaction, cultural understanding and some increase in their self-care and behaviour. There has been an increase of women's social participation and socio-economic factors. They also displayed a strong interest in understanding more and more about the affairs of the administration, the nation and the events of the planet.

Branham (1985)¹¹ observed that women have an enormous capacity for development and that ability can be further established by sufficient systemic efforts. Provided the right form of motivation, women will provide a clear voice to their abilities, leading to the achievement of national objectives.

Sharma (1977)¹² indicated that the presence of women in forestry / agro-waste-based industries will provide rural women with substantial incentives and job prospects. Collection of raw materials, manufacturing, advertisement, etc. and certain other production projects may be carried out by women employees. The growing of medicinal plants and fruit trees, edible mushrooms such as Morshillea, Cycoperdon, Agaricus etc. in the tanks, their processing and drying are all easy research programs with which people may be effectively involved with very little preparation.

⁹ Malik, Baljit: Women in a Changing Rural Society, A[^]Mn/A.s/ie/ra, op. cit. p. 15.

¹⁰ Hanumappa, H.G. and Sujatha, T.M.: Mahila Mandals and the rural Women, /[^]i/n/A:5-Ae/ra, July 1, 1983. Vol. XXXI, No. (19), p.20.

¹¹ Branham, K.E.W.: Development of Rural Women-a responsibility, Kurukshetra, Sept. 1985, Vol. XXXIII, No. (12), p.36

¹² Sharma, Manju: Science and Technology for the Betterment of Rural Women, Kurukshetra, March 16, 1977, Vol. 25, No. (12), p.5

Rajula (1985)¹³ noted that although urban poor women are major contributors to family income, rural women often play a crucial role in the agrarian economy and play a major role in farm operations, but both are marginalized in society. There are a variety of economic issues, such as poor pay, abuse by tenants or difficult labor practices, exploited by fake debt reports.

Based on the literature review we went for the primary survey through Digital Questionnaire Method, which comprised of 23 questions, divided in to three sections: First, basic details (Email- Address, Name, Age, Education, Gender), Second section, Socio-economic conditions of the respondents and the Third Section, focus on qualitative analysis about COVID-19 Pandemic and women related issues).

This research is merely focusing on the Primary data from purposive sampling (mostly female respondents) but most of the literature review were using secondary methodology which we overcome with our primary data method (which is highly trustworthy) compare to other data sources.

ANALYSIS

Characteristics of Respondents: Majority of the respondents at our study were female (62.5%), 21-30 years old (36.01%) (Table 1). In fact, when analyzing the role of respondents, it is interesting that most of them are researchers, teachers and working people. The idea that sampling is usually made up of respondents who have university and higher education experience was also useful in collecting data from the right individuals.

Table.1 Basic Details of the Respondents

	Number	Percentage
Gender		
Male	429	37.5
Female	715	62.5
Age		
Below 20	143	12.54
21-30	412	36.01
31-40	314	27.40
Above 40	275	24.03
Total	1144	100

¹³ Rajula, Devi A.K.: Women in the Informal Sector, ATi/n/JbAe/ra, Dec, 1985 Vol. XXXIV No. (3) pp. 17-18

Figure.1 Gender of Respondents

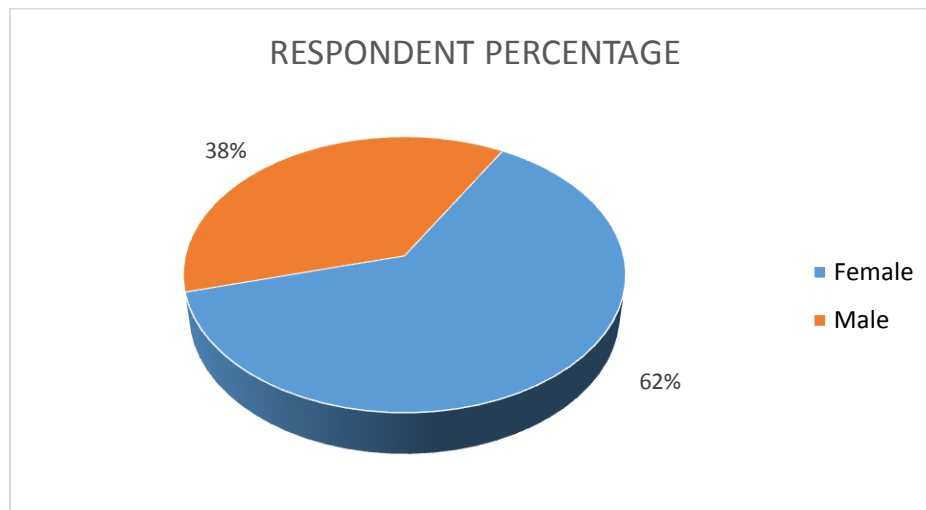


Figure.2 Age structure of Respondents

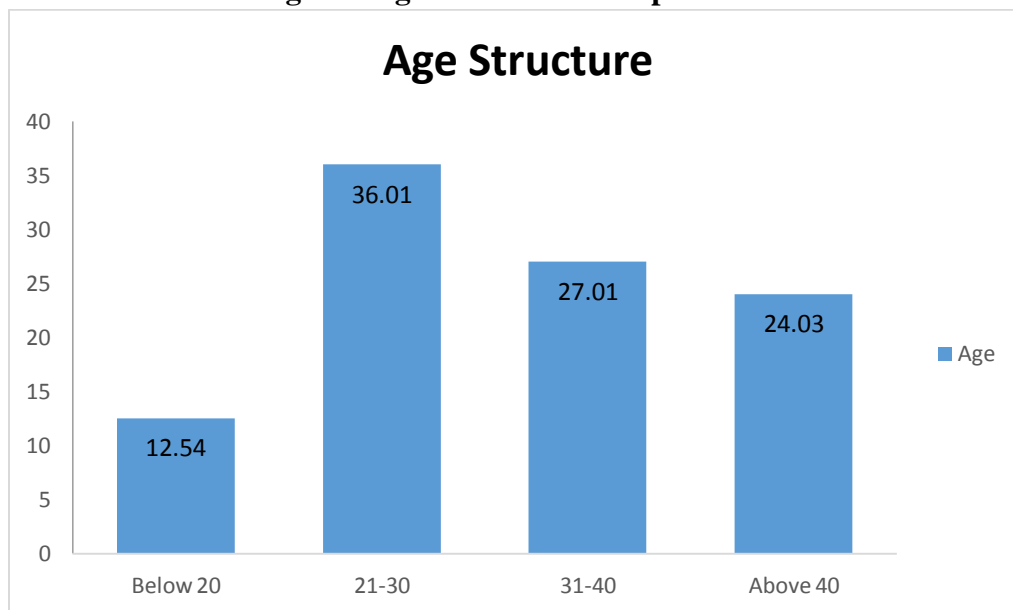


Table 2. Awareness about COVID-19

How did you get awareness about COVID-19?		
	Number	Percentage
Mobiles	545	47.7
TV	370	32.4
Loud speaker	35	3.0
Internet	55	4.8
Social Network	70	6.2
News Paper	37	3.2
Friends	32	2.8
Total	1144	100

The tools for getting information about COVID-19 Pandemic has been available in various platforms but in our study area “Hyderabad City”, majority of the respondenents (80 %) have been received informationsonNovel Corona Virus through Mobile and TV (Phone calls, Messages, TV News, Live Debate, Adds) and the remaining 20 % includes; Loudspeaker, Internet, Social netwrok, News paper and friends (Table 2).

Figure 3. Awareness about COVID-19

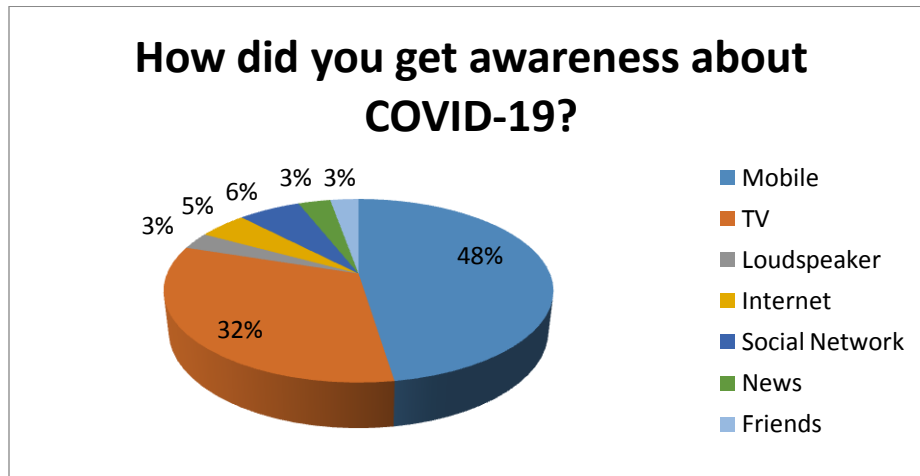
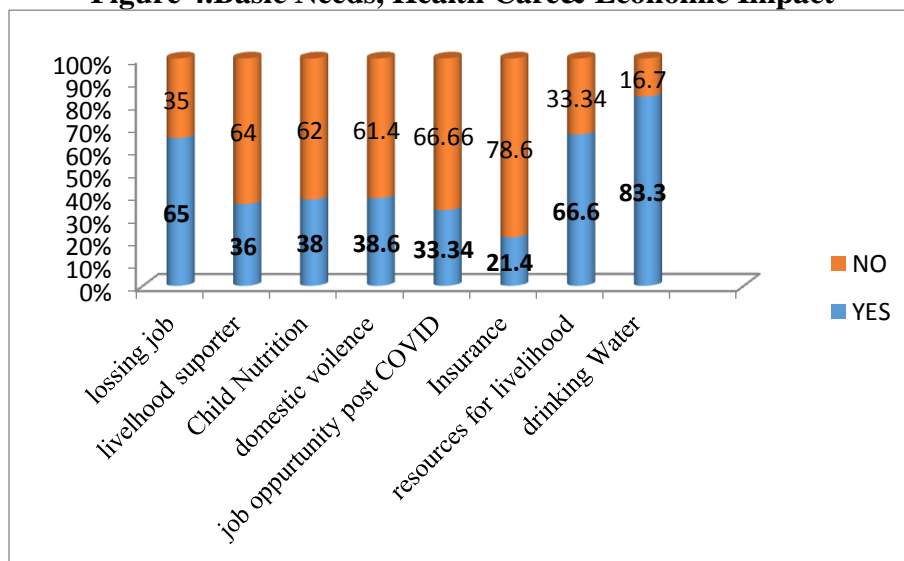


Figure 4. Basic Needs, Health Care & Economic Impact



The above Figure 4, shows that 65 percent of female lost their job due to COVID-19 Pandemic which belongs to the private sectors and 64 percent of them dont have livelihood supporters and 78.6 percent of them are wihtout any insurance coverages. As a result of Pandemic situation

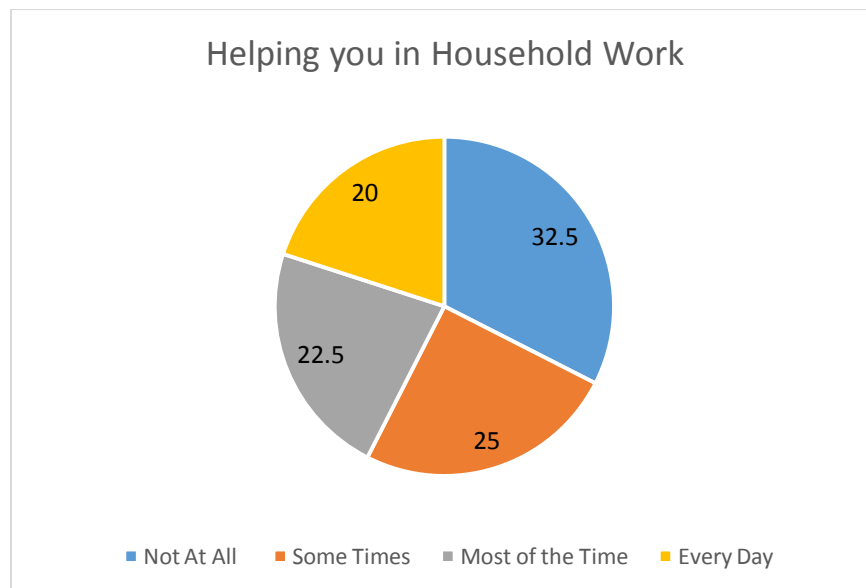
61.4 percent of them have been faced domestice violence. The 62 percent of the family which we have surveyed have been facing with child malnutrition. Forutnitely 66.6 percent of the respondents have supporting resources for livelihood and 83.3 percentage have access to potable drinking water. Meanwhile 66.66 percent of the respondents feel that there wont be any job opportunities for them post COVID-19 Pandemic.

Table 3. Time Spent

How do you spend most of your time during the lockdown?		
	Number	Percentage
Mobile	490	42.9
TV	229	19.9
Books	370	32.4
Others	55	4.8
Total	1144	100

The survey conducted by us, shows that 42.9 percent of the respondents are spending their time on Mobile phones and 20Percentage are spending on watching TV. At the same time as most of the respondents are educated so, the spends spare the time on book reading (32.4 %).

Figure 5. Did any of your Male counterparts (father/brother/husband) help you in household works?



In the Pandemic time people are spending most of their leisure time in Watching TV and surfing internet through smartphone which is an indication of curiosity and anxiety due to Pandemic as

there were restrictions for going outside for recreation such as Gyms, Parks, Film, Theater, Pubs, playgrounds, swimming pool and etc. The below figure 6 shows the 2D representation of people- how they spend their time during the Pandemic period?

Figure.6 Spent Time

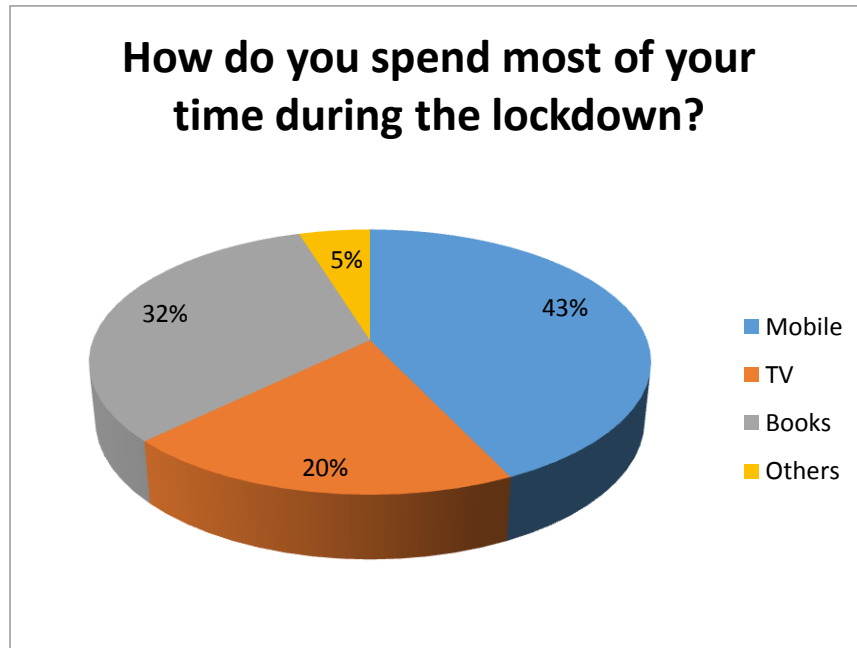


Table 4. Unlock Impact

How was the impact of Unlock 1 and unlock 2		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	26.6	305
Much	12.5	143
Meduim	25.6	293
Low	19.4	223
Very Low	15.7	180
Total	100	1144

The table 4, shows the impact of unlock 1 and unlcock 2 which had a huge positive result due to returing people to the market and business place. As 65 percent of the respondents have positive attitude ranging from very much to much and medium. Gradually lockdown played a key role in normalization of daily to day life, though there has been risk of transmission of COVID-19 Virus, but still majority of the people are moving in the search of job to restore their livelihood.

Table 5. Role of Re-opening

How do you assess the role of Re-opening Alcohol Shop in the City?		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	43.8	502
Much	6.5	75
Meduim	6.5	75
Low	3.6	42
Very Low	39.3	450
Total	100	1144

As most of the respondents are educated, they respondents in favour of re-opening the Alcohol shops in the Hyderabad City so, as to revive the economy of the country which faced depression due to continues lockdown. As 56.8 percent (Table 5) of respondents answerd in favour of re-opening of the Alcohol shop in the study area which was a positive sign both economicly and psychologically.

Table. 6 Stress and Danger

How much do you feel stress about Covid-19 danger while working outside right now?		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	7.6	88
Much	50.8	582
Meduim	19.4	223
Low	18.3	210
Very Low	3.8	41
Total	100	1144

This COVID-19 Pandemic has created so much havoc and threat that Almost 77 percent (Table 6) of the respondents feel very tense while working outside during the Pandemic time.

It is almost five months from the spreading of the Virus in India but still there is no sign of any Vaccine or drug which can reduce the intensity of the Novel Corona Virus which is globally spread. So, that is the reason people feel stress and tention while working outdoor.

In this 21st Century scentists are exploring the space and oceans and spending billions of money on (R&D), but unfortunately they are not able to find a proper solution to a problem which is threathing human life globally.

Table.7 Affordability

It is affordable to get Liquid or wash hand and Mask?		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	17.48	200
Much	16.7	180
Meduim	21.4	245
Low	21.1	242
Very Low	24.2	277
Total	100	1144

In our study area most of the people follow imposed rules (by the Government) during COVID-19 Pandemic. Our data shows that majority of the people (55 %) are able to afford the materials for health protection such as using sanitizer, liquid/wash hand and mask. Meanwhile 45 percent of the respondents use their handmade/scarf and avaiable materials to protect their health against COVID-19 Virus (Table 7).

Table.8 Assistance

Did you receive any help from Government or NGOs during the Lockdown?		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	0	0
Much	7.6	88
Meduim	13.4	154
Low	4.3	50
Very Low	75	852
Total	100	1144

Table.9 Affordability for lockdown extension

Is it Affordable for you if Lockdown extend much more?		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	20.8	238
Much	7.6	88
Meduim	25	280
Low	7.6	88
Very Low	39	450
Total	100	1144

Almost 80 percent of our respondents (Table 8), did not receive any assistantce and supportfrom any organization. The data shows that only 20 percent (Table 8), of our respondents received

assistance from either Government or Non-Governmental Organization during the lockdown phases (1-5 lockdown).

As Our study had limitation with the informal sector so, the surveyed data mostly consist of formal sector where priority was mainly on their health and life protection- that is why 53.2 percent (Table 9), have chosen the (very much, much and medium) option in the survey.

It shows that they thoroughly aware about the severity of Virus and non availability of Vaccination till non (as of 11-August-2020).

Table.10 Impact of Lockdown in locality

In your locality what is the impact of lockdown on females		
	Percentatge	Number
Very Much	19.40	223
Much	4.3	50
Meduim	26.6	305
Low	10.4	116
Very Low	39.3	450
Total	100	1144

Women have the probability of being affected by Novel Corona Virus as they are the primary providers.

As of dated 11/8/2020 in India Corona virus Cases:2,271,586Deaths:45,388¹⁴, and in Hyderabad 457 cases and 8 Deaths has been recorded¹⁵. Our research shows that 50.3 Percentage has been suffered severely due to the Virus and the 49.7 percentage also faced tension of the Pandemic during the lockdown period.

SUGGESTIONS

Policymakers ought to integrate gender research into the formulation of COVID-19 policies because, as the deadly disease progresses, there is an immediate need for gender-disaggregated evidence to better grasp how women and men are influenced by the virus.

Understanding the effects of lockdown on women and girls may contribute to the production and adoption of other important policy initiatives. Likewise, identifying the gendered complexities of

¹⁴ Worldometer.com/retrieved-2020.

¹⁵ <https://covid19.telangana.gov.in/retrieved-2020>.

reducing instability and preserving supply chains for essential products is likely to contribute to positive results for all men and women.

From now onwards governments and Non-governmental Organizations should collaborate and work for any similar outbreak of such Hazard in order to respond immediately of such Pandemic that can be a thread to the public.

CONCLUSION

Women are mostly the main providers of their families, neighborhoods and health services, placing them at elevated risk of transmitting COVID-19.

A seismic blow to our communities and economies, the COVID-19 outbreak reinforces society's dependency on women both on the frontline and at home, whilst at the same time highlighting systemic gaps in all domains, from health to the economy, defense to social safety.

In periods of crisis, where finances are stretched and systemic capability is reduced, women and girls experience unequal impacts with far-reaching effects that are only further compounded in the sense of fragility, violence and emergency situations. The hard-won advances for women's rights are now under attack.

Responding to the pandemic is not only about addressing long-standing inequality, but rather about creating a stable environment in the interests of all people at the core of recovery.

Across metropolitan settings, owing to a higher percentage of nuclear households, women could be expected to help the family by staying at home and take care of the elderly and/or lose jobs / earnings in the near future. Over the long term, though, if working from home is the rule, further job options can become accessible to women who already choose home-based jobs.

Most mothers do continue to teach their children because governments across the world have partially closed schools to avoid the dissemination of COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns over the effects of these school delays are rising.

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